

REMARKS

Claims 15 and 16, 18 - 20, 22 and 24 - 29 are in this application and are presented for consideration. Claims 15, 19, 20, 28 and 29 have been amended.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for discussing in this case by telephone. In accordance with the telephone conversation, applicant has amended claim 19. In particular claim 19 has been amended to include the feature of the separation column. This separation column is shown in the embodiment of figure 2, and the separation column is represented by reference 14. Support for the use of "chlorosilane" can be found in the specification on page 10, lines 17 through 21. This portion of the specification describes many different chlorosilanes as a bottom product of the separation column 14. All or part of this bottom product is returned to the reaction column via line 25. The term chlorosilane now has proper antecedent basis in claim 19.

Claim 24 was discussed as having a similar antecedent problem for the term chlorosilane. Applicant has reviewed claim 24, and notes that chlorosilane is being initially introduced in claim 24 as describing a feature of the separation column. Claim 24 does not indicate that chlorosilane has been previously set forth, therefore there should be no antecedent problem. Support for the chlorosilane components is found in the specification on page 10 lines 17 through 21. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions for alternate wording of this feature, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's representative to discuss possible changes.

Claim 20 has been amended to remove the portion requested by the Examiner. Claim

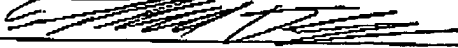
20 has also been amended to set forth the relationship between the outflow and the reaction zone.

The claims have also been amended to replace the term "reactive/distillative" with "reactive and distillative". It is applicant's position that the original term is fully understandable to a person of ordinary skill. Applicant is only making this change at the request of the Examiner. The term "reactive and distillative" is considered to be equivalent to the term "reactive/distillative", and is to be given the full definition as described in the specification.

Applicant again thanks the Examiner for the telephone conversation, and for indicating that this application now only has formal objections. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which would further favorable prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative by telephone to discuss possible changes.

Favorable action on the merits of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted  
for Applicant,

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TJD:tj  
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SHOULD ANY OTHER FEE BE REQUIRED, THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
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0410.